

John D. Bethel



John Douglas Bethel, 47, of Palm Springs, Calif., formerly of Grinnell, died Friday, Sept. 1, 2006, at University Hospitals in Iowa City of neuroendocrine carcinoid cancer.

The Bethel family will receive friends and family Friday, Sept. 8, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept. 9, at 10:30 a.m. at the United Church of Christ-Congregational in Grinnell. An additional service and inurnment will be held in October at St. Paul's of the Desert Episcopal Church in Palm Springs. Memorials may be sent to the Carcinoid Cancer Foundation, 333 Mararoneck Ave. No. 492, White Plains, N.Y. 10605.

He was born Jan. 12, 1959, in Grinnell, the son of Charles and Esther Jones Bethel. He was raised in Grinnell and graduated from Grinnell High School in 1977 after spending a year in Mexico as a Rotary Exchange Student. In 1981 he received the bachelor of arts degree from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. Following graduation, he worked for Hart Schaffner and Marx at the Chicago Merchandise Mart. In 1982 he moved to Southern California where he owned and operated a retail clothing store, Foxfire, in Laguna Beach. During this time he also pursued an acting and modeling career, with his most notable work being on

"The Young and Restless" daytime drama. From 1986 to 1993, he handled real estate partnerships and trust deed investing for Point Center Financial. In 1993 he took a job in Palm Springs as a vice president with Bank of America, and continued in that position until 2000 when he pursued a career as a financial advisor for Soloman Smith Barney.

He loved music and the arts, and enjoyed outdoor activities such as bicycling, hiking and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. He also was involved in community activities including Chamber of Commerce, Desert Business Association, Coachella Valley Economics Partners and Palm Springs Film Festival.

He is survived by his parents, Charles and Esther Bethel of Grinnell; one brother, Charles (Chuck) Bethel of St. Paul, Minn., and two sisters, Anne Pederson of Grinnell and Susan Bethel of Coralville. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, FA and Josephine Jones and Clinton D. and Ruth Bethel and by his partner, Richard Fregapone.